REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 5, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kodak DC240/DC280, Park (U.S. 5,231,440) and Takahashi (U.S. 2003/0133034). Further, dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kodak, Park, Takahashi and Imaizumi et al. (U.S. 6,236,389).

Independent claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to further define the features of the image cropping, and the switching/selecting. In addition, new claim 12 has been added. The above-mentioned rejections are believed inapplicable to amended independent claims 1, 5, and 9 and claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10-12 which depend therefrom for the reasons discussed below.

Amended independent claim 1 recites an apparatus including a cropping means for (1) generating a cropped image (from a photographed image). The apparatus of claim 1 also includes a compression means for (2) generating a compressed image (from the same, un-cropped photographed image). In addition, the apparatus of claim 1 includes a switching means for (3) selecting one of the generated cropped image and the generated compressed image. Finally, claim 1 recites that, when the switching means selects the cropped image, the image cropping means (4) performs the cropping by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image and outputs the instantaneously enlarged photographed image to the switching means as the selected cropped image. The Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi references, or any

combination thereof, fail to disclose or suggest above-mentioned features (1)-(4), as recited in independent claim 1.

The rejection of claim 1 relies on Kodak for teaching the cropping means recited in claim 1. However, Kodak merely teaches the use of a "3X Digital zoom" by the lens when taking a picture (see last two pages of Kodak).

Thus, it is apparent that Kodak teaches the use of a digital zoom at the time of taking a picture, but does not disclose or suggest receiving an already photographed image and generating a cropped image, of the already photographed image, by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio and outputting the instantaneously enlarged photographed image to the switching means as the selected cropped image, as required by claim 1.

In addition, the rejection of claim 1 relies on Takahashi for teaching the compression means and the switching means, as recited in claim 1. However, Takahashi teaches a compression circuit 29 which has the ability to apply multiple compression modes to a received signal, the appropriate compression mode being selected by a compression selection circuit 30 (see paragraphs [0067], [0068] and [0070]). Specifically, Takahashi merely teaches selecting between HD, SD-Hi and SD-Low, which are different television signaling systems.

Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that Takahashi teaches selecting between different types of compression (HD, SD-Hi and SD-Low) to be implemented, but does not disclose or suggest a switching means for: (1) selecting the cropped image generated from a photograph by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image and outputting the instantaneously enlarged

photographed image to the switching means as the selected cropped image; and (2) selecting the compressed image generated from the (same) photograph, as required by claim 1.

In other words, Takahashi's disclosure of selecting a single compression mode from a plurality of compression modes and only compressing the received signal according to the selected compression mode is not a disclosure or suggestion of cropping a photograph (by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image), compressing the (un-cropped) photograph, and then selecting between the cropped and compressed photograph, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, it is noted that the result of the cropping, as recited in claim 1, by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined ration without compressing the image is that an instantaneously zoomed image can be obtained quickly at a high resolution. Further, it is noted that the result of the compressing, as recited in claim 1, is that a compressed image at a lower resolution can be obtained at a slower rate than the cropped image. Moreover, it is noted that the result of the selecting, as required by claim 1, is that the invention is capable of selecting between the instantaneously zoomed image obtained quickly at the high resolution and the compressed image, of a lower resolution, obtained at a slower rate.

Therefore, in view of the above, it is apparent that Takahashi merely discloses a switch capable of selecting between various types of compression and it is apparent that the switch of Takahashi does not have a structure capable of selecting between the instantaneously zoomed image obtained quickly at the high resolution and the compressed image, of a lower resolution, obtained at a slower rate, as required by the structure recited in claim 1.

Therefore, it is clear that any obvious combination of Kodak, Takahashi, and Park would

not result in the invention of amended independent claim 1.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kodak, Park or Takahashi, or elsewhere in the prior art of record which would have caused a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kodak, Park and/or Takahashi to obtain the invention of independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 12 which depend therefrom are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

Further, the Imaizumi reference was cited for teaching the features of dependent claims 2 and 3 in the above-mentioned 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection. However, Imaizumi also fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features of independent claim 1 which are lacking from Kodak, Park, and Takahashi. Thus, for the same reasons discussed above, it is clear that Imaizumi in combination with Kodak, Park, and Takahashi do not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 12 which depend therefrom.

Independent claims 5 and 9 recite an image enlarging method and an image enlarging apparatus, respectively, wherein the method and apparatus of claims 5 and 9 include limitations which correspond to the above-mentioned distinguishing features recited in independent claim 1 (e.g., cropping, compressing, and selecting). Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-7 and 9-11 are allowable over Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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